CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An accounting system for accounting for a plurality of events, each event associated with a transaction, using a plurality of accounting rules, where each transaction is associated with at least one of the plurality of accounting rules according to the type of transaction, said system comprising:

a transaction engine for receiving events from at least one source;

an accounting engine coupled to the transaction engine for deriving accounting information for the received events using for each received event at least one of the accounting rules associated with the type of the transaction of the received event; and

an accounting database coupled to the accounting engine for storing records of the derived accounting information.

2.   The accounting system of claim 1, where the records of the derived accounting information are stored as postings to a plurality of ledger balances.

3.   The accounting system of claim 1, where each-transaction is associated with at least one of the plurality of accounting rules according to the type of transaction by being associated with a transaction classification, the transaction classification being associated with the at least one of a plurality of accounting rules.

4.   The accounting system of claim 1, wherein the rules are updateable.

5.   The accounting system of claim 1, wherein the rules are arranged in a posting matrix.

6.   The accounting system of claim 1, wherein the rules are written using a scripting language.

7.   A method for maintaining an account for a plurality of transaction events using a plurality of transaction rules, the account having a cost basis associated therewith, the transaction event being associated with an event type, a transaction classification and an asset classification, where each transaction event is associated with at least one of the plurality of accounting rules according to the at least one of the cost basis, event type, transaction classification and asset classification, the method comprising:

receiving a transaction event from at least one source;

determining at least one accounting rule to apply to the received transaction event based upon at least one of the cost basis, event type, transaction classification and asset classification; and

deriving accounting information for the received transaction event using the accounting rule or rules determined to apply to the transaction event.

8.   A method for maintaining an account for a plurality of transaction events using a plurality of transaction rules, the method comprising:

receiving a transaction event from at least one source;

determining at least one accounting rule to apply to the received transaction event;

deriving accounting information for the received transaction event using the accounting rule or rules determined to apply to the transaction event; and

posting the derived accounting information to at least one ledger balance for the account.

9.   The method of claim 9, wherein the account has a cost basis associated therewith, and the determining of at least one accounting rule to apply to the transaction event is based at least on the cost basis and the type of transaction event.

10.   An accounting system having a plurality of accounting rules for maintaining an account for a plurality of transaction events, each transaction event having a date-time associated therewith, the system comprising:

a transaction engine for receiving transaction events, determining whether reconstruction is needed based on the date-time of the received transaction events and, based on the determination, reconstructing the account so that the received transactions are posted to the account in date-time order;

an accounting system, coupled to the transaction engine, for determining a set of accounting rules to apply to the received transaction events, deriving accounting information for the received transaction events according to the set of accounting rules; and

an accounting database coupled to the accounting system for storing derived accounting information for the transaction events.

11.   The accounting system of claim 9, further comprising a user interface to maintain the plurality of accounting rules.